

## Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 INR-05 MC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00

AID-05 IGA-01 RSC-01 /031 W  
----- 001429

R 091443Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3603

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

COMUS AVSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8344

CNO FOR OP 61 AND OP 63

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJ: US NAVY DESTROYER FOR ECUADOREAN NAVY

REF: A. STATE 191129; B. STATE 177223

1. IT IS NOW 7 MONTHS SINCE WE INFORMED ADMIRAL VASQUEZ, COMMANDER OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY, THAT THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER DURING THE SUMMER OF 1975 (ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S LETTER TO ECUADOREAN NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL VASQUEZ DATED 6 APRIL 1974). ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY'S LETTER TO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ OF JULY 16, 1974 PROMISED TO IDENTIFY FOR THE ECUADOREANS THE SPECIFIC SHIP TO BE TURNED OVER TO THEM WITHIN 6 MONTHS.

2. THE ECUADOREANS ARE STARTING TO PLAN FOR THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS THEY WILL NEED TO FULFILL BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE DELIVERY OF THE SHIP. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS WILL TAKE QUITE A BIT OF LEAD TIME, AS WILL LANGUAGE TRAINING, IDENTIFICATION OF MODERNIZATION AND RE-EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS THE ECUADOREANS MAY WISH; DETAILS OF WHERE THE SHIP WILL BE OVERHAULED, WHERE THE TRANSFER IS TO TAKE  
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PLACE, ETC. INCREASINGLY CRITICAL, THEREFORE, IS THE

SHIP'S IDENTITY. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT THE USS GURKE IS INTENDED TO BE THE SHIP, WE WERE ASKED NOT TO PASS THAT INFORMATION TO THE ECUADOREANS, AND HAVE NOT DONE SO. WE WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO BE ABLE TO DO SO IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, PERHAPS AS SOON AS THE NEW ECUADOREAN NAVY COMMANDER IS NAMED. SINCE THE TRANSFER OF A SHIP OF THE SIZE BEING CONTEMPLATED REQUIRES SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL (STATE 177223) AND WE HAVE SPECIFICALLY INFORMED THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT OF THIS, WE WOULD TELL THE ECUADOREANS THAT THE FORTHCOMING TRANSFER IS DEPENDENT UPON SUCH APPROVAL AND CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL IT HAS BEEN OBTAINED. IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, TO PLEAD THE NECESSITY FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BEFORE EVEN IDENTIFYING THE SHIP, OR BEGINNING TRAINING, IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT TRANSFERRING THE SHIP TO ECUADOR IN THE SUMMER OF 1975.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM THE ECUADOREAN NAVY OFFICIALLY AT A TIME OF OUR CHOOSING THAT THE USS GURKE IS TO BE THE DESTROYER WHICH WE WILL TURN OVER TO THEM, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION.  
BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOANS, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** MASS, EC  
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